

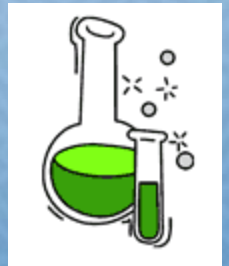
Lab Accreditation Rule Revision

Chapter 173-50 WAC



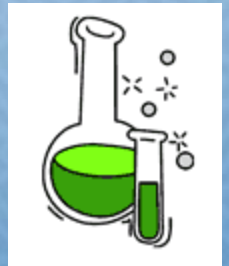
Lab Accreditation Program

- Goal – to ensure labs are capable of providing accurate and defensible analytical data in order to protect public health and the environment
- 460 accredited labs in program
 - ✓ 367 in-state, 93 out-of-state
 - ✓ 103 accredited for drinking water



Legal Authorities

- RCW 43.21A.230
 - ✓ Ecology may certify environmental labs and charge fees to cover costs
- RCW 43.20.050
 - ✓ DOH delegates drinking water lab certification to Ecology



Accreditation Funding

Program costs = \$1.8 million

- Fee revenue = \$1.1 million

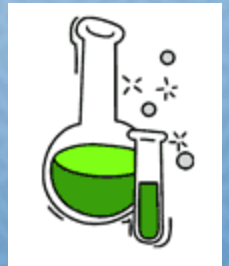
Biennial shortfall \$700,000

State general fund is
subsidizing the lab accreditation program



2009 Legislature

... authorized Ecology to increase fees as necessary to cover the actual costs of the lab accreditation program



Two Fee Options Considered

1. Raise fees 65% to recover full program costs
2. Cut 1 of 7 positions, and raise fees 43%

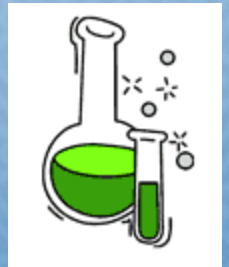
Option 2 selected:

will reduce oversight, but program still viable



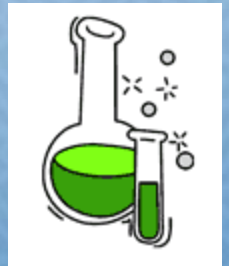
Proposed Rule Changes

1. Restructure fees in order to
 - cover accreditation program costs
 - reflect the work required to accredit different types of labs



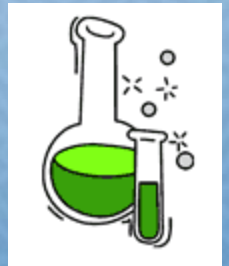
Proposed Rule Changes

2. Revise business practices to reduce operating costs
3. Clarify grounds for suspending or revoking accreditation
4. Housekeeping amendments



Proposed Fee Schedule

- Fees reflect work required to provide accreditation services
- Fees same regardless of matrix
- For metals, charge by method - not analyte
- Minimum fee for accreditation = \$300
- Fewer maximum fees per test category
- No flat fee for 3rd party accreditation



Proposed Fees

Category	Current		Proposed **
	<u>Drinking Water</u>	<u>Other Matrices</u>	<u>All Matrices</u>
Chemistry	\$ 60	\$ 65	\$ 75
Trace Metals	\$ 60	\$ 65	\$400*
Organics	\$155*	\$115*	\$200*
Organics (mass spec.)	\$155*	\$345*	\$500*
Microbiology	\$155	\$175	\$200
Radiochemistry	\$155	\$145	\$250
Bioassay	--	\$230	\$300
Immunoassay	--	\$ 65	\$ 75
Physical	--	\$ 65	\$ 75

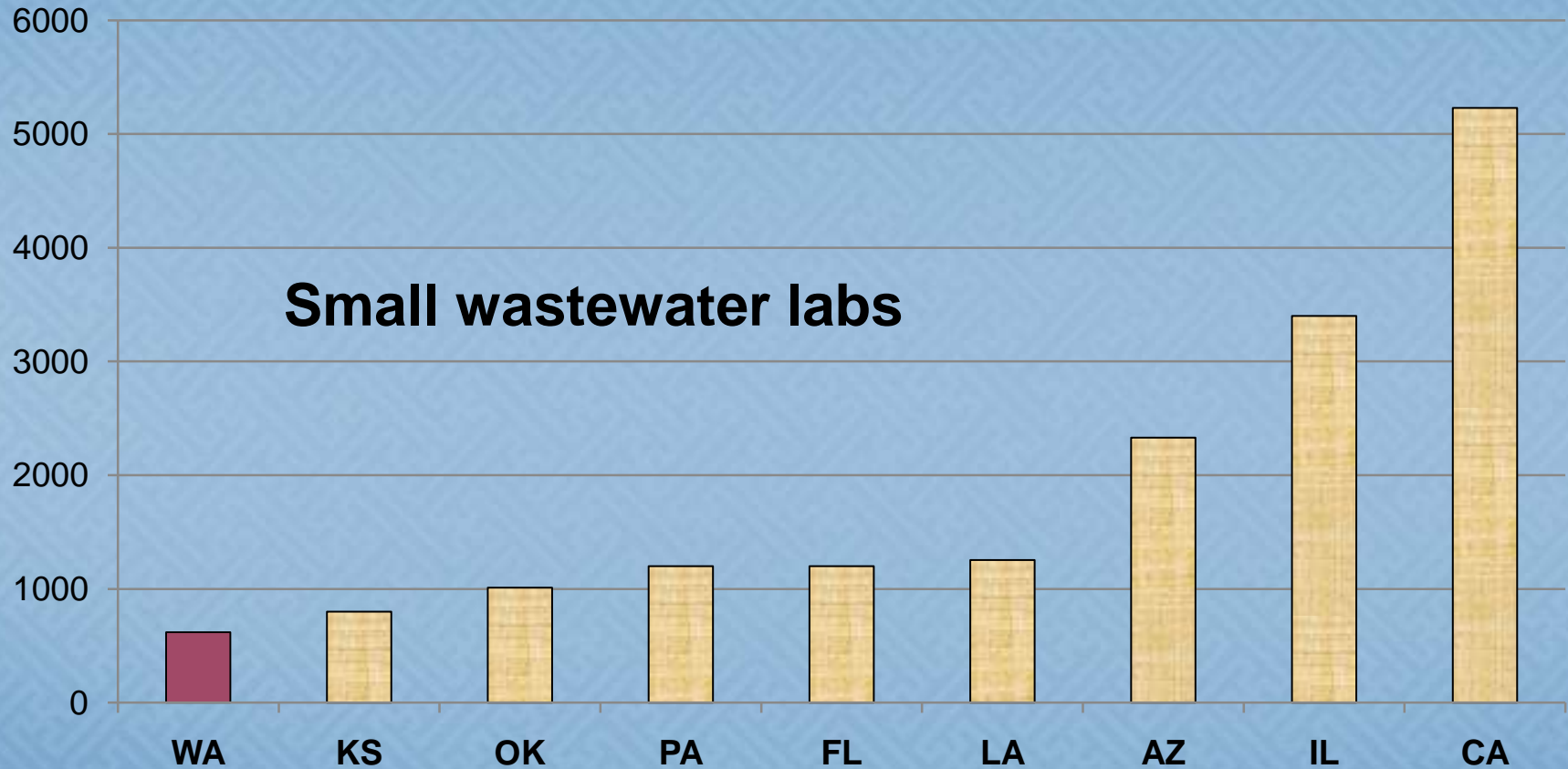
* Fee is per method, not analyte.

** 3rd part accreditation = 75% of full fee if no on-site audit required.

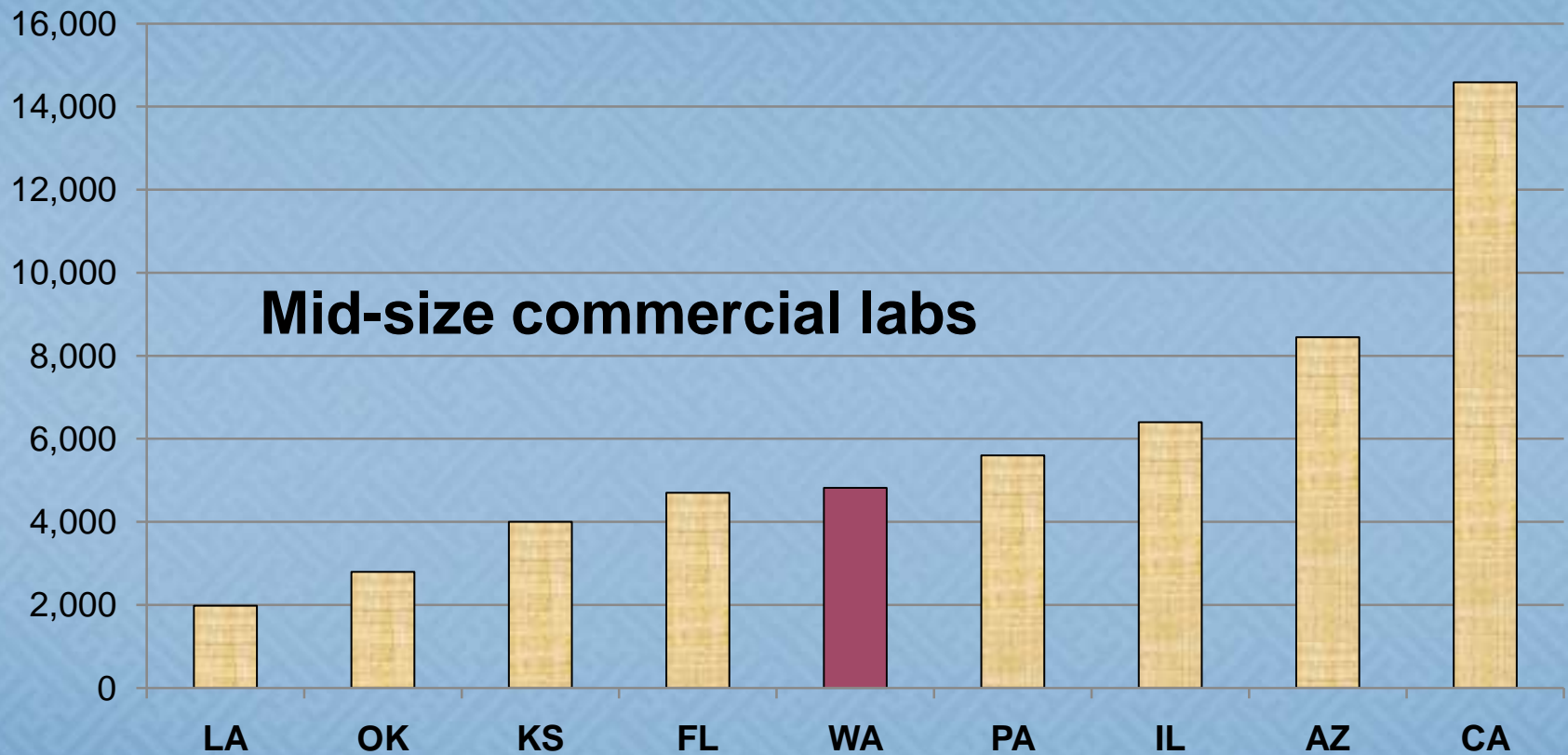
Example Fee Changes

Lab Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Change
<i>Small wastewater treatment (n=195)</i> <10 analytes, 1 matrix	\$ 515	\$ 598	+16%
<i>Mid-size commercial (n=10)</i> 10-30 analytes, 2-3 matrices	\$ 3,478	\$ 4,820	+39%
<i>Largest commercial (n=10)</i> full service	\$ 6,760	\$ 10,370	+53%
<i>Third party (n=81)</i> many out-of-state labs	\$ 2,557	\$ 3,782	+48%
<i>All laboratories (n=455)</i>	\$ 1,240	\$ 1,764	+42%

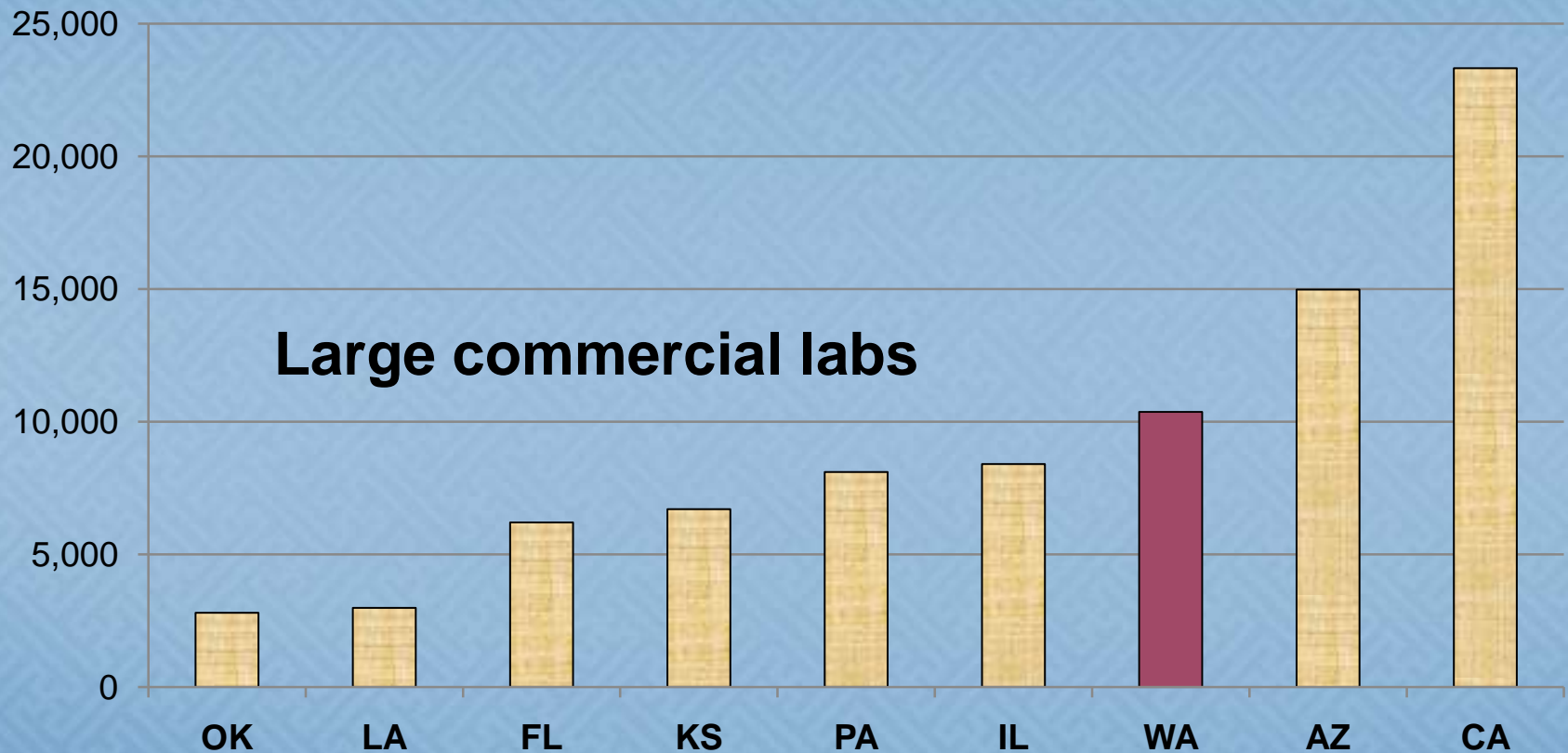
Fees in WA vs Other States



Fees in WA vs Other States



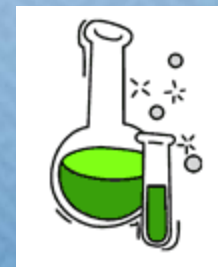
Fees in WA vs Other States



Other proposed rule changes

Business Practices

- Decreased audit frequency for non-drinking water labs
- Microbiology proficiency testing required for all labs once per year
- New data system helps offset loss of one position



Other proposed rule changes

***Additional Grounds
for Suspension/Revocation***

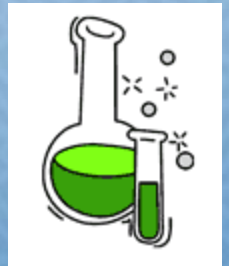
- Failure to pay fees
- Failure to maintain 3rd party or reciprocal accreditation



Other proposed rule changes *Housekeeping amendments*

- Definitions revised
- WAC 173-50-180: Exemptions (deleted)

(existing statute is sufficient,
and exemption has never been used)



Schedule

- March 2010 – draft rule language, small business economic impact statement, cost-benefit analysis
- April 2010 – public hearings, written comment
- August 2010 – final rule adoption

